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Telegram sent to H. C. O., Monday, April 20th, at 5^h 0^m P.M. (translation): The orbit presents some resemblance to that of the first comet of 1822.

Telegram received from Berkeley, Monday, April 20th, at 10^h 20^m P. M. (translation):

*Elements of Comet b, 1896 (SWIFT), computed by A. O. LEUSCHNER and F. H. SEARES.**

[The elements as received are given in column II above, for ready comparison with those of Professor AITKEN.]

THE USE OF THE SCIENCE OBSERVER CODE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

A letter just received from Professor KREUTZ, of Kiel, gives the following particulars regarding the use of the Science Observer code in the transmission of astronomical telegrams to and from the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams, at Kiel:

"Telegrams from America are received by the S. O. code. Telegrams from Kiel to America, Africa, Australia, and Madras are also sent by the S. O. code. On the Continent of Europe a number-code is employed, which has worked extremely well. Five figures (as 52687) are accepted in European telegraph offices as one word. On the Atlantic cables, three figures count as one word, while throughout the United States each figure is so counted. An experience of several years has shown the number-code to be entirely satisfactory throughout the Continent, and the S. O. code is seldom or never employed."

The number-code used in Europe was explained in No. 49 of these *Publications*. It cannot be employed in the United States, on account of the expense.

E. S. H.

1896, April 4.

COMET TELEGRAMS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.—EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF MR. TEBBUTT'S OBSERVATORY FOR 1895.

"The telegrams announcing the discoveries of these comets, (the bright comets discovered by PERRINE† and BROOKS‡) were received, respectively, on November 19th and 26th, with the respective motions for the 17th and 21st, but without any indication of the direction of motion.

* Printed in the *Astronomical Journal*, No. 373, of April 30, 1896.

† Comet *c*, '95, discovered November 18.1, G. M. T., at Mt. Hamilton.

‡ Comet *d*, '95, discovered November 21.8, G. M. T., at Geneva, N. Y.

"An opportunity did not present itself till December 2d, and I then swept for BROOKS' Comet between 5° and 17° South Declination * * * * without success. On the evening of the same day, in answer to enquiries, a telegram was received from the Melbourne Observatory giving the position for November 25.644, G. M. T., from which it was quite obvious that the search was made too far south. Cloudy weather again set in and continued for some days. Towards the close of December a very brilliant comet was reported to have been seen * * * at various places in New South Wales and Victoria; * * * this brilliant object was no other than the comet discovered by PERRINE.

"It is much to be regretted that beyond the original announcement of the discovery of this comet no further particulars were cabled to Australia. Had the elements or a few ephemeris positions been furnished in time, it is probable that some positions might have been secured."

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF AUGUST, 1896—RUSSIAN PROGRAMME.

Russian astronomers are completing their arrangements for viewing the forthcoming eclipse of the Sun. The Pulkowa Observatory will send an expedition to the Lower Amur; the Academy of Sciences has chosen Novaya Zemlya for the seat of its operations; so has the Kasan Society of Naturalists; while the Geographical Society will send the Director of the Irkutsk Meteorological Observatory, A. V. VOZNESENSKY, to the Oleminsk, on the Lena, for meteorological observations. Professor GLASENAPP and L. G. VUCHIKHOVSKY propose to go to Finland on their own account. The young Russian Astronomical Society (it was founded only in 1891) directs its chief attention to physical observations, and it will have three parties of observers, provided with photographic appliances. The chief station will be on the Lena, where the duration of the eclipse is longest; and it is proposed to photograph there the corona by SCHAEBERLE's method, with an objective of long focal length, and also to photograph, by means of two spectrographs, the spectrum of the corona, as well as the limb of the Sun, by means of a camera provided with a RUTHERFURD prism. At the second station, on the bay of the Ob, the corona will be photographed by means of several ordinary cameras; while at the third station, in the eastern part of